

Remarks

Claims 331-376 are pending in this application. Claims 213-330 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 331-376 have been added to more clearly define the invention.

The Patent Office cited the Bowen et al. patent (USP 4,802,761) in rejecting the previously pending Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Applicant brings to the attention of the Patent Office that the new Claims, which define the invention with more clarity, are directed to an analytical method and sensor utilizing correlation of the spectral changes of the electromagnetic radiation transmitted through a sensing layer with a change in the localized surface plasmon intensity in thin metallic islands of the sensing layer in the transmitted electromagnetic radiation. No such correlation in a method and sensor are disclosed or suggested in Bowen. Therefore, the new Claims presented in this amendment are in compliance with the patentability requirements of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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